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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois General Assembly stand united in our strong support of all military personnel who have served and call on all Illinoisans to show support to all those who wear the uniform; and

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WHEREAS, Forty-two years ago, World War II veteran Jesse Crow watched as soldiers returned to DeSoto from tours of duty in Vietnam; Mr. Crow fought in Europe as a member of the United States Army's 101st Airborne Division; and

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WHEREAS, It is believed by many veterans that after World War II, other wars are ignored or forgotten; Jesse Crow observed and recognized this and dedicated his time to making sure that none of DeSoto's veterans are ever forgotten; and

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WHEREAS, In 2001, Jesse Crow began planning to build a memorial in the community; the memorial was built almost entirely with private donations; Mr. Crow designed the 6 1/2-foot tall black granite monument, which sits on a triangular island of land bordered by Illinois Route 149 and Pine and Lincoln Streets; and

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WHEREAS, The monument is engraved with the emblems of all the branches of the military and is flanked by matching black

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1 granite benches; it bears the names of all DeSoto's past and
2 future veterans, regardless of whether they served in a time of
3 war or peace; and

4 WHEREAS, Jesse Crow stated, "It is one thing to read
5 history in the pages of a book, but when you see a monument
6 carved in stone, it's forever"; and

7 WHEREAS, It is important that we urge communities across
8 the State to consider appropriate expressions of support and
9 recognition for veterans living in their midst; therefore, be
10 it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
12 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
13 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we designate the portion of
14 Illinois Route 149 East from U.S. Route 51 to the Jackson
15 County Line as the "Veterans Memorial Highway"; and be it
16 further

17 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation
18 is requested to erect at suitable locations, consistent with
19 State and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs
20 giving notice of the name of the "Veterans Memorial Highway";
21 and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to the Village of DeSoto.